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Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00605 251234Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W
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R 250556Z JUL 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 606
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, SA
SUBJ: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION: CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1398/99

1. THE REQUESTED BUDGET FOR COE MANAGED MODA AND SANG MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WAS DOLS 2,552.5 MILLION, OF WHICH DOLS 1,718.5 WAS APPROVED. ALL OF THE APPROVED EXPENDITURES WERE FOR INCREMENTAL FUNDING OF CONTINUING PROJECTS (E.G. SANG HEADQUARTERS) OR NEW SECTIONS OF PREVIOUSLY FUNDED MAJOR INSTALLATIONS (E.G. KING KHALID MILITARY CITY). NO COMPLETELY NEW PROJECTS WERE FUNDED.

2. AMONG MODA PROJECTS FULLY FUNDED ARE: KING KHALID MILITARY CITY, KING ABDUL AZIZ MILITARY ACADEMY, MODA HQ AND RSAF HQ IN RIYADH, WAEARRHQ AND SEWAGE PLANT AT KHAMIS MUSHAYT.

3. CONTINUATION OF SANG HQ WAS FUNDED BUT ONLY DOLS 1.6 MILLION IN NEW WORK WAS APPROVED. SANG SOURCES HAVE TOLD COE ADDITIONAL PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED QUOTE IN A FEW MONTHS UNQUOTE.

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4. MAJOR MODA PROJECTS NOT FUNDED ARE: SHARM YANBU PORT ON THE RED SEA, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, FIELD ARTILLERY SCHOOL AND INFANTRY SCHOOL AT KHAMIS MUSHAYT, HOSPITALS AT AL KHARJ AND TAIF, AND MILITARY ADMINISTRATION SCHOOL IN RIYADH. PRIVATE CONTRACTORS HAVE BEEN GIVEN JOBS FOR PRE-FAB HOUSING AT KHAMIS MUSYAT AND A SCALED-DOWN HOSPITAL AT TAIF TO FILL THOSE NEEDS

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FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

5. COMMENT: COE IS ALREADY BEING PHASED OUT AT TABUK AND REPLACED BY FRANK BASIL CO. AS PROJECT MANAGER. FAILURE TO FUND SIMILAR COE PROJECT AT KHAMIS MUSHAYT MAY BE INDICATION THAT MODA IS CONSIDERING HANDING THAT PROGRAM ALSO OVER TO PRIVATE CONTRACTOR. FRANK BASIL CO. MAY HAVE STRONG CONTACTS IN MODA TO INFLUENCE THINKING ABOUT REPLACING COE. COLONEL JOSEPH BENNETT, DPY. DIVISION ENGINEER, SAYS THE JIDDA DISTRICT AT THE COE WILL PROBABLY CLOSE BY 1981, WHEN SNEP IS COMPLETED, UNLESS SOME OF THE PROPOSALS IN PARA 4 ARE APPROVED. GRANINGER

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